

AL, 1.1305
c.2

January 2001



English 30
Part A: Written Response
Grade 12 Diploma Examination

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January 2001
English 30
Part A: Written Response
Grade 12 Diploma Examination

Description

Part A: Written Response contributes 50% of the total English 30 Diploma Examination mark and consists of **two** assignments.

• **Reader's Response to Literature Assignment**

Value 15% of total examination mark

• **Literature Composition Assignment**

Value 35% of total examination mark

Time: This examination was developed to be completed in 2 ½ hours; however, you may take an additional ½ hour to complete the examination.

Budget your time carefully.

Instructions

- Read the **whole** examination carefully before you begin to write.
- You may use the following print or electronic references:
 - an English language and/or bilingual dictionary
 - a thesaurus
 - an authorized writing handbook
- Complete **both** assignments.
- Space is provided in this booklet for planning and for your written work.
- Use blue or black ink for your written work.

Additional Instructions for Students Using Word Processors

- Format your work using an **easy-to-read** 12-point or larger font such as Times.
- Double-space your final copy.
- Staple your final printed work to the page indicated for word-processed work for each assignment. Hand in all work.
- Indicate in the space provided on the back cover that you have attached word-processed pages.

Do not write your name anywhere in this booklet.

Feel free to make corrections and revisions directly on your written work.

Instructions

- Because the Reader's Response to Literature Assignment is thematically connected to the Literature Composition Assignment, read **both** assignments before you begin.
- Read "Softest of Tongues" carefully and thoughtfully before you start the writing assignments.

SOFTEST OF TONGUES

To many things I've said the word that cheats
the lips and leaves them parted (thus: *prash-chai*
which means "good-bye")—to furnished flats, to streets,
to milk-white letters melting in the sky;
to drab designs that habit seldom sees,
to novels interrupted by the din
of tunnels, annotated by quick trees,
abandoned with a squashed banana skin;
to a dim waiter in a dimmer town,
to cuts that healed and to a thumbless glove;
also to things of lyrical renown
perhaps more universal, such as love.
Thus life has been an endless line of land
receding endlessly. . . . And so that's that,
you say under your breath, and wave your hand,
and then your handkerchief, and then your hat.
To all these things I've said the fatal word,
using a tongue I had so tuned and tamed
that—like some ancient sonneteer—I heard
its echoes by posterity acclaimed.
But now thou too must go; just here we part,
softest of tongues, my true one, all my own. . . .
And I am left to grope for heart and art
and start anew with clumsy tools of stone.

Vladimir Nabokov

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

(Suggested time: approximately 30 to 45 minutes)

The poem suggests that although adapting to new situations is part of life, some adaptations are more difficult than others.

What does the poem “Softest of Tongues” suggest to you about the nature of adaptation? Support your response with reference to detail from the poem.

Planning

There is additional space for Planning on pages 4, 6, and 8.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Planning

There is additional space for Planning on pages 6 and 8.

If you are using a word processor, staple your Reader's Response here.
You may make corrections directly on your printed page(s).

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

There is additional space for Written Work on pages 7 and 9.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Planning

There is additional space for Planning on page 8.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Planning

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

Literature Composition Assignment

(Suggested time: approximately 1½ to 2 hours)

Much literature examines the degree to which characters are successful in adapting to the unfamiliar.

Write a composition based on literature that you have studied in which the writer examines an individual's ability to adapt to situations in his or her life. What idea(s) does the writer develop regarding adaptation?

Reminders for Writing

- **Select** literature that is relevant to this assignment from the short stories, novels, plays, poetry, other literature, or films that you have studied in your high school English classes. You must focus your discussion on literature *other than* the poem provided in this examination booklet. You may choose to discuss **more than one** selection.
- **Focus** your composition on your controlling idea about adaptation. Markers will be looking for evidence that you are developing and supporting your controlling idea in response to *this* assignment.
- **Support** and develop your controlling idea with evidence from the literature that you choose to discuss.
- **Organize** your composition so that your ideas are clearly, effectively, and coherently presented.

Literature Composition Assignment

Initial Planning

You may use this space for your initial planning. No marks are awarded for work done on this page.

Title of literature
and name of writer

Your controlling idea

There is additional space for Planning on even-numbered pages.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

If you are using a word processor, staple your Literature Composition here.
You may make corrections directly on your printed page(s).

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

There is additional space for Written Work on odd-numbered pages.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Literature Composition Assignment

Planning

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

Blank lined paper with horizontal ruling lines.

Credit

Vladimir Nabokov. "Softest of Tongues" from *The Atlantic Monthly*, vol. CLXVIII, July–December, 1941 (The Atlantic Monthly Company, 1941). Reprinted under the Alberta Government Print Licence with CanCopy (Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency).

Biographical Note

Vladimir Nabokov (1899–1977) used the pen name Vladimir Serin.

Nabokov was a Russian-born novelist and critic who wrote both in Russian and English. He spent most of his life in exile living in East Germany, England, and finally the United States. Nabokov's best-known novel, the controversial but critically acclaimed *Lolita*, was published in 1955. This poem, "Softest of Tongues," was written in English in 1941.

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